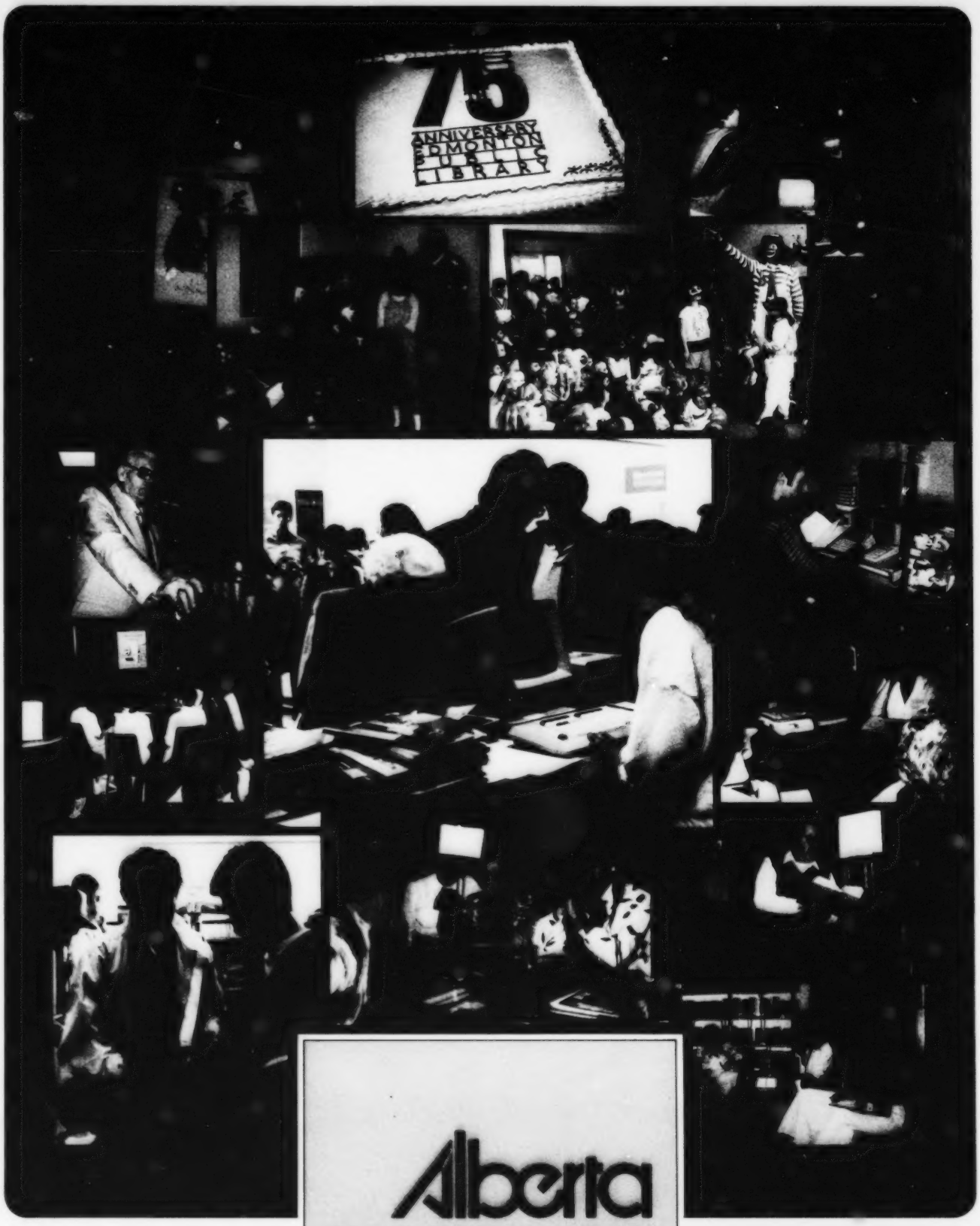
ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD TENTH ANNUAL REPORT 1987/88



Alberta

CULTURE AND MULTICULTURALISM

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ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT
1987/88

Alberta
CULTURE AND MULTICULTURALISM

PUBLISHED BY

ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD
GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

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"The front cover shows a montage of people across the province celebrating, using, enjoying and serving the public libraries in their communities."

ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD

Honourable Greg Stevens
Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism
103 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Stevens:

In accordance with the Libraries Act, it is my pleasure to present to you the Tenth Annual Report of the Alberta Library Board for the year ending March 31, 1988.

This year, the Board decided that we would focus the report on our travels throughout the library communities of the province. The Board took to the road on several occasions, holding regular monthly meetings in conjunction with meetings with representatives from Library Boards and Systems Boards. We were also represented at many Library openings and special anniversaries of Libraries.

The Library community was full of sound input in the form of questions and concerns about the future of libraries in Alberta. With the budget cuts of 1987/88, it was important both to us and to the library community to be visible, and to bring assurance to library people that their concerns would be made known to you and that you would deal with them in the fairest possible way.

The April, 1988 announcement of Capital Grants funding and the increase in Operating Grants was received with great enthusiasm. With this very positive feeling within the library community, we look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Flette

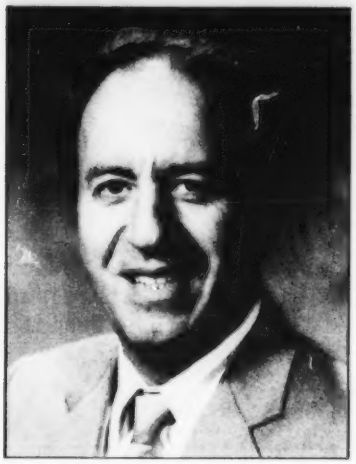
Pat Flette, Chair
Alberta Library Board

16214 - 114 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5M 2Z5

BOARD MEMBERS

Sue Dutton, Calgary • Patricia Flette, Grande Prairie • Majorie Haugen, Cowley • Ed Halina, Olds
Robert Maskell, Edmonton • John Solodzuk, Two Hills • Wanda White, Brooks

Message from the Minister



It is a pleasure to speak to the library community through the pages of the Alberta Library Board's tenth annual report. As you will see from the following report, the Board has been very active over the past year travelling throughout the province, speaking and visiting with library boards and personnel and taking the pulse of the library community. The Board has been most conscientious in advising me through the reports of its findings.

I want to assure all library supporters that the Government of Alberta is very aware of the tremendous contribution of public libraries to the lives and cultural development of all Albertans. We will continue to support the network of more than 300 public libraries throughout the province, from Zama City in the north to Coutts in the south, from Banff in the Rockies to Lloydminster on the Saskatchewan border.

Public libraries will face tremendous challenges as we enter the decade of cultural development as designated by UNESCO and move toward the 21st century. Libraries must assist our citizenry to navigate through the sea of information which threatens to engulf us. As a result, I believe that it will be more important than ever to build local collections, respond to the needs of the community and its diverse groups, collect historical material, serve as an information centre for local government, and employ the most appropriate and modern technology. Co-operation through resource sharing and regional library development will continue to be central to library service delivery in this province.

To meet the challenges that lie ahead, I urge all librarians and their boards to use their own associations and the Alberta Library Board to keep Government informed. Together we can work to achieve excellence in public library service.

Greg Stevens

Honourable Greg Stevens, P. Eng.
Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism
MLA Banff-Cochrane

WHAT IS THE ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD?

"Books and libraries and the will to use them are among the most important tools our nation has to diffuse knowledge and to develop our powers of creative wisdom."

J.F. Kennedy

The Alberta Library Board, made up of seven private citizens from across Alberta, functions as an advisory board to the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism. The members are appointed for three year terms by the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism to advise him on matters relating to public libraries in Alberta.

The Board's statement of mission is:

"The primary aim of the Alberta Library Board is to advise the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism on matters relating to the expansion, development, co-ordination and encouragement of libraries and library services in Alberta."

"The Alberta Library Board promotes communication among groups in the library community. To support provincial library growth the Board will encourage library leadership and improve awareness of the public library's role in a democratic society."

Now in its tenth year of operation, the Board derives its authority from the Libraries Act, Chapter L-12.1, 1983 of the Statutes of Alberta. Its mandate includes:

- Advising the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism as set out in Section 6 of the Libraries Act.
- Considering matters referred to it by the Minister.
- Receiving input from the general public and library-related organizations.
- Receiving input from library boards and trustees, library associations and the Library Services Branch.
- Providing mechanisms through which individuals and groups can discuss library development and inform the Board on these matters.
- Recommending to the Minister regarding study and research awards.
- Initiating research and making recommendations to the Minister on the results.
- Co-operating with library groups to encourage development.
- Making recommendations on the establishment and dissolution of community libraries.

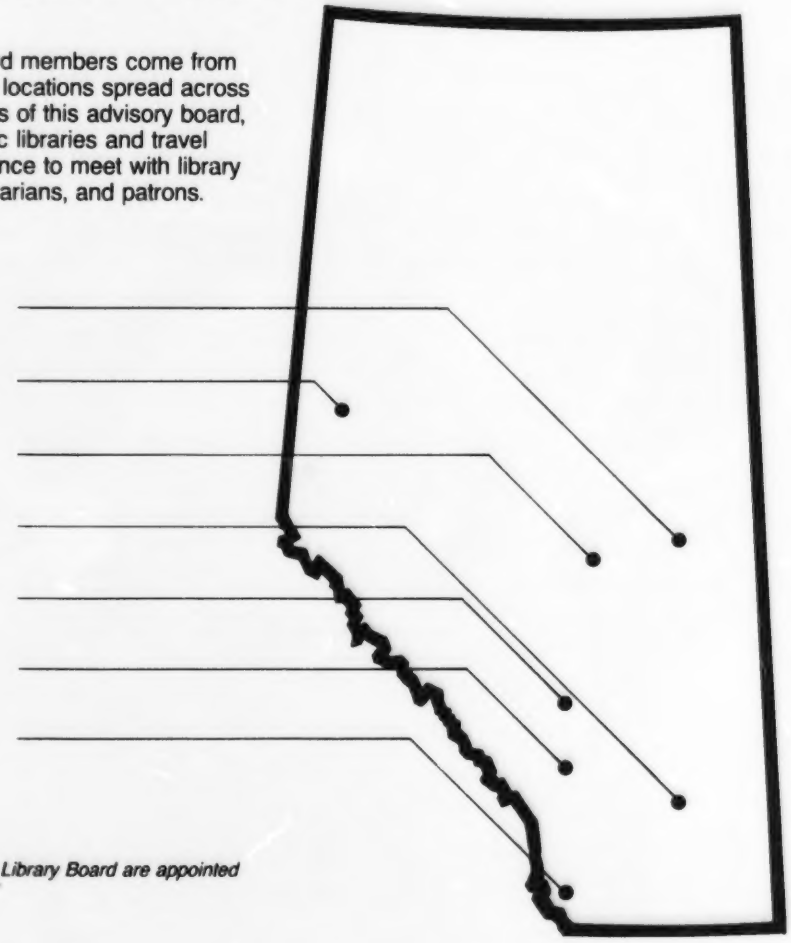
In the following pages, this annual report chronicles the many activities the Board has been directly or indirectly involved in while carrying out its stated mission during 1987/88.

"The Alberta Library Board, chaired by Patricia Flette of Grande Prairie met regularly throughout the year."

WHO IS THE ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD?

"The 1987/88 Alberta Library Board met with officials from Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism from left to right: Marjorie Haugen (Cowley), Glen Buick, Assistant Deputy Minister, Robert (Bob) Maskell (Edmonton), Patricia Flette (Chairperson, Grande Prairie), Wanda White (Brooks), Sue Dutton (Calgary), John Solodzuk (Two Hills), Jack O'Neill, Deputy Minister, Ed Halina (Olds)."

Alberta Library Board members come from seven geographical locations spread across Alberta. As members of this advisory board, they represent public libraries and travel throughout the province to meet with library groups, trustees, librarians, and patrons.



"Members of the Alberta Library Board are appointed from all parts of Alberta."

TOURING THE PROVINCE'S LIBRARIES WITH THE ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD

"We are in transition from an industrial economy to a post-industrial economy where more people are involved in managing information than in producing goods."

Gordon F. MacFarlane
Chairman and CEO, British Columbia Telephone Company

Library Systems Development

Library systems development in Alberta is an illustration of this transition to involving more people in managing information. In making this transition, library systems follow a developmental cycle much like that of human growth and development. This can be seen clearly by looking at the stages and activities of the various Alberta library systems in the past year.

Conception and Gestation

The Northeast Project was at this beginning stage where interested parties create a nucleus and plan for further development. This steering committee phase is one in which local input is obtained, a plan of service is developed, support is sought from library boards and councils, and some pre-system services are provided. In the Northeast these services last year included author tours, large print and genre (mystery, western, romance, science fiction) book exchange, reading programs and workshops for staff and trustees. The Project, with an office in the St. Paul Provincial Building, was guided during the year by the Steering Committee, chaired by Maureen Hall, Project Officer, Leslie Keith, and Project Director, Christine Nelson from the Library Services Branch. System establishment is targeted for mid-1989.

Birth

This stage is the transition from project to system: a minimum of six municipal councils representing at least 50% of the population must commit financial support, and an interim board is created. The interim board members are council appointments; this board is responsible for preparation of

In October 1987, the Hon. Greg Stevens (left) with his colleagues MLA's Alan Hyland and Tom Musgrove met with John Vandenburg, chairperson of the Shortgrass Steering Committee and other members."

agreements as well as preliminary recommendations on the selection of the headquarters site and system staff.

Shortgrass completed this phase in 1987/88 and was proclaimed as a system by the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, Greg Stevens, in March 1988 after obtaining the necessary local municipal support and organizing the creation of an Interim Board. The system agreements with municipal councils were completed and signed, and preliminary work on selection of a headquarters site and a system director took place. In addition, many pre-system services were provided throughout the area including circulating video, and large print collections, summer reading programs, author tours, and the catalogue conversion project. Interim Board Chairperson, Nanko Dubbelboer, became Chairperson of the new system board. Project Officer was Cliff Dacre; and Project Director is Bonnie Gray, Library Services Branch Consultant. The current system office is in the Medicine Hat Provincial Building.

Toddler

In this stage, each new library system takes its first steps. The System Board creates a new structure based on the Plan of Service, the agreements with participating bodies, and current legislation. Activities during the Toddler phase center around obtaining headquarters and necessary equipment, acquiring additional staff, developing policies and procedures, and providing services.

The Peace Library System was at this stage during the past year and established its headquarters at Grande Prairie. Some services were provided with others still in the planning stages; the system offered or planned to offer book purchasing, shelf ready books, consulting assistance, information services, author tours, workshops, and reading programs. One major project was the transfer of the Extension Library Collection to the system. Catalogue conversion commenced, and in addition to all of this, the board and staff were kept busy clarifying roles and developing policy, procedures, and services. During the year, Pat McNamee, Consultant, and Olga Gil, Assistant Director of the Library Services Branch worked closely with the Peace System. Glenn Walmsley was Chairperson of the Peace Library System Board during the past year; Ian Ferguson is Director.

Adolescent

At this stage, library systems are independent, have established policies and procedures, offer planned services and explore new ways of providing services, and experience growth spurts. The Marigold Library System is Alberta's adolescent system. The board and staff not only implemented their plan of service but developed innovative methods for serving members such as MARSHAN, a resource sharing network coordinated from the system headquarters in Strathmore. Marigold was pleased to welcome Crossfield which joined the system during 1987/88. From the Library Services Branch, Olga Gil worked most closely with Marigold during the year, and Caroline Bodmer served as chairperson of the Marigold Library System Board. In mid-year Rowena Lunn took over as System Director from Pat Cavill, Marigold's first Director.

Maturity

Parkland and Yellowhead are mature systems, having demonstrated their ability to

"The Honourable Greg Stevens, Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, (right), visited an overcrowded Parkland Library System Headquarters and spoke to the former director Bill Bale and staff."

provide programs and services to members over a long period of time. These systems operated at full capacity last year although experiencing constraints due to lack of headquarters space. Yellowhead received an establishment grant on behalf of the Westlock School Division, and negotiations are in process to complete the transfer. Olga Gil worked with both systems during the year to carry out the Branch's role of working with the systems on expansion plans and other long range planning.

Ed Halina, Chairperson of the Parkland Library System for 16 years, resigned as Chairperson during the year and was succeeded by Sandra Weidner. Alvin Gross continued as Chairperson of the Yellowhead Library System Board. Bill Bale served as Parkland's Director; Linda Giffen as Director of the Yellowhead Library System.

The Alberta Library Board travelled to Wetaskiwin in November 1987 to hold its regular meeting, at the Wetaskiwin Public Library, and to meet with the Parkland System Board and the Yellowhead System Board. Lively discussions took place on the varied concerns of the two older established systems. The current economic restraint gave rise to concerns regarding staff reductions, telecommunication costs, new headquarters buildings, and system expansion.

The $7.25 million grant from lottery funds for systems headquarters announced this year by the Honourable Greg Stevens was welcome news. This capital grant will allow the five existing systems to plan for orderly expansion and maintenance of service to the members of their systems by building or expanding the systems' headquarters buildings.

Additional system issues were studied by the Board and reported on to the Minister. The role and recognition of volunteers in the library field, especially in system development, and requirements created by special circumstances such as small population bases and large geographic areas were considered.

Other public library developments during the year included the establishment of municipal libraries in the villages of Donalda and Chauvin.

Liaison with Other Groups in the Library Community

Continuing its effort to promote communication throughout the province's library community, the Alberta Library Board met with several groups during the year to discuss matters of mutual concern.

In March 1988, the Board met with the development services unit of the Library Services Branch. Assistant Director of Development Services, Olga Gil, and her staff made detailed presentations of all aspects of the services provided by the Branch in this area.

At the Jasper Alberta Library Conference in April 1987, Board Chair, Pat Flette, and Vice-Chair, Ed Halina, met with executives of the Library Association of Alberta, the Alberta Library Trustees' Association, and the Learning Resources Council. Resource sharing and library funding were the main discussion topics at this joint meeting.

"The Honourable Greg Stevens (left), met with Carla Newbould (middle), Chairperson of the Lethbridge Library Board, Patricia Flette (right), and members of both boards in Lethbridge."

From left to right ALB member Marjorie Haugen, Tim McIver (Nanton) and Duncan Rand (Lethbridge) chat with the Minister at a Lethbridge area meeting of library board representatives called by the Alberta Library Board in October of 1987.

The Board travelled to Lethbridge in October where the Board members met with two groups. A dinner meeting, attended by the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, the Honourable Greg Stevens, was held in Lethbridge Public Library. Members of the Lethbridge Library Board presented their concerns which focussed on funding for libraries, library representation on the Alberta Foundation for the Literary Arts, keeping the Library Services Branch healthy, and public libraries as necessary education centres.

Later that same evening, representatives from the small communities in the Southwest area had an opportunity to voice their opinions on library issues to the Minister and the Alberta Library Board. Library funding was a recurring theme, but many positive statements were made regarding the various services currently being received. As this is an area where system development is presently in abeyance, the Board was interested to hear encouraging comments from residents about the hopes for a future system.

As the Board travelled around the province, meeting with groups like these proved invaluable in giving Board members an insightful overview of concerns significant to the library community.

Resource Sharing

> *"The difference between art and science is that science is what we understand well enough to explain to a computer. Art is everything else."*
>
> Donald Knuth

Alberta's Resource Sharing Program consists of interlibrary loan service and the Zenith telephone information service. Resource sharing is a major thrust in the effort to provide access to library materials and services equally to all Albertans. The Library Services Branch and provincially designated Resource Libraries, through formal agreements, jointly deliver materials and services in this program.

In 1987, Library Services Branch handled 25,790 interlibrary loan requests from public libraries on behalf of their clients. Resource Libraries responded to 7,750 enquiries made by other public libraries through the Zenith Telephone Information Service.

Alberta's public library interlibrary loan network took on a new look in 1987. Microcomputers replaced TWX terminals, which had been used for transmitting interlibrary loan requests, in each of the Resource Libraries. The computers allow requests to be typed off-line at the terminal and subsequently to be transmitted at high speed to their destination. The network operates on the iNet 2000 telecommunications network. Resource Libraries staff received training on both the hardware and software, which was provided with the equipment. The result of all this is more efficient transmission of interlibrary loan requests.

Consultative services are also provided as part of the resource sharing program. Branch staff assist Alberta public libraries in using both Zenith and interlibrary loan services and in meeting the expectations outlined in "Networking in Alberta: Levels of Service Expectations." During the past year branch staff visited libraries in St. Paul, Redcliff, Bow Island and Tofield.

Direct Services

The Multilingual Biblioservice provides adult and children's books in languages other than English to patrons through their local public libraries. At the end of 1987, the Multilingual Biblioservice collection, including 31 languages, totalled 52,697 volumes. Books deposited by the National Library of Canada and obtained through individual donations added 2,697 volumes to the collection. The Library Services Branch loaned 33,150 volumes from this collection during 1987, a 7% increase in loans over the previous year.

The Talking Books collection, delivered through public libraries, is for the use of Albertans who are unable to use conventional print materials. The Branch loaned 10,404 talking books to the public libraries during 1987. Alberta public libraries reported that over 72,000 book loans were

made to their visually and physically challenged patrons. This figure indicates that the province wide loan rate stablized during the year. Increases in loans, however, were reported by both Edmonton and Calgary Public Libraries.

Both multilingual and talking book loans have been handled on an automated circulation system since April 1, 1987. The implementation of this system has resulted in more efficient processing of loans to public libraries, decreasing turnaround time in filling requests.

"Book is a four letter word."

Awards

ALBERTA LIBRARY BURSARY

The Alberta Library Bursary, $4000 to a student of library science, was awarded this year from a field of 14 applicants to Bill Glaister of Edmonton. Prior to entering the University of Alberta's Master of Library Science program, Bill had several years of varied library experience. Upon completion of the MLS program, he secured a position in the Parkland Library System.

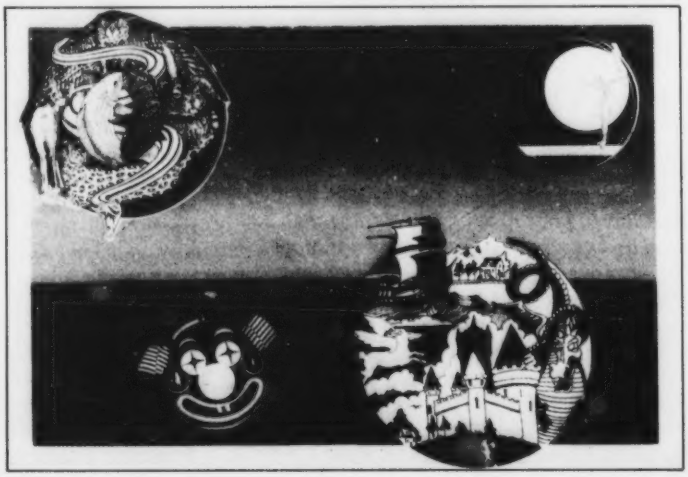
CREATIVE LIBRARIANSHIP AWARD

The Creative Librarianship Award, established in 1986, was presented to the 1986 winner, Karen Armbruster of Brooks Public Library, at the Alberta Library Conference in April 1987. Each year the Alberta Library Board chooses the recipient of this award which was established for the purpose of identifying, promoting, and facilitating the sharing of creative public library service ideas in Alberta.

Calgary Public Library was the winner of the 1987 Creative Librarianship Award for its innovative summer reading program, "Intergalactic Quest: Summer Reading Club 1987". The applicability of this program to libraries in general was a major factor in choosing this year's award winner.

"This annual award builds pride and a sense of accomplishment for the hundreds of public libraries and their staff that work long and hard to bring enjoyment and information to all Albertans," said the Honourable Greg Stevens in announcing this year's winner of the second annual Creative Librarianship Award. The Alberta Library Board continues to be impressed with the dynamic approaches of Alberta libraries to the provision of public library services and encourages all boards in the province to submit applications on behalf of their libraries.

"The winner of the first Creative Librarianship Award, Karen Armbruster (left) posed with the former Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, the Honourable Dennis Anderson and Patricia Flette, chairperson of ALB."



"Intergalactic Quest"
Calgary Public Library

ANNIVERSARY PLAQUES

Our public libraries are growing up! This year Board members attended anniversaries and presented plaques to Edmonton Public Library for 75 years of service, to Drumheller Public Library for 65 years, to Didsbury Public Library on its 80th anniversary, and 50 year plaques to the Fairview and Rocky Mountain House Libraries.

"Board member Bob Maskell presented a 75th anniversary plaque to Sharon Pisesky, chairperson of the Edmonton Public Library."

"The Edmonton Public Library celebrated its 75th anniversary with many colourful events and posters."

Extension Library

The Board continued to be concerned about loss of service to former patrons of the Extension Library as a result of its closure in July 1987. The four regional systems are sponsoring a survey of these former Extension Library patrons to determine their library needs especially those living some distance from a public library.

Information gained from this survey, to be coordinated by the Peace Library System, will enable systems to tailor cost-effective services to meet former Extension Library user needs. These services will not replace Extension Library service but will serve as a substitute until full regional system development has taken place in Alberta.

The Extension Library collection has been sent to the Peace Library System and will be used for resource sharing throughout the province and to meet the needs identified by the survey.

Libraries Act 1983 and Libraries Regulation 1984

> *"Behold the turtle: It only makes progress when it sticks his neck out."*
> James Bryant Conant
> Harvard University President

The 1983/4 Libraries Act and Regulation set an assessment and planning process in motion among the more than 260 library boards in Alberta. The Act requires that all public libraries have in place by-laws and policies to provide a framework for the management of their libraries. In addition, municipal and system boards are required first to assess their community's library needs and then to develop goals, objectives, and a plan of service for the future provision of library services in their community.

In the years since the new Act came into effect, the process undertaken has been both time consuming and rewarding for the boards involved as they discover a new sense of what the public library means to their communities and how best to serve the public through management of the library's resources. As of March 31, 1988, 98% of the province's library boards have completed by-laws, 76% have developed complete or partial policies, 73% have reported on needs assessments done in their communities, and 66% of the boards have completed goals and objectives for future action.

Organizations in the library community have contributed assistance in varied forms, demonstrating cooperation and partnership from the beginning. The Alberta Library Trustees' Association and the Library

Association of Alberta supported the process by sponsoring a series of workshops on by-laws and needs assessments. The Board Development Program, of Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism and Grant MacEwan Community College, and the Rural Libraries Training Project have both incorporated information from this planning process into their programs.

The Library Services Branch published the **Needs Assessment Handbook for Public Libraries: A Close-up Look** and, in an example of national cooperation, received permission from the province of Ontario to make available **Assessing Your Community for Library Planning** to Alberta library boards as a companion volume.

As Alberta's library boards responded to the deadlines and requirements of the Act and Regulation by participating in the planning process, they became more knowledgeable about the needs of their respective communities and better prepared to proceed within a planning framework to meet these needs. Comments made by these boards indicate the value they found in these activities.

> "As a library board, we felt the needs assessment that we carried out gave us a great deal of information that was necessary for the continued well-being of our library and gave us direction for the future of our library. We felt that the needs assessment was a successful venture."
>
> "The Board feels it has gained some valuable insight into the library's function within the community through the doing of this needs assessment. We must continue to strive to insure we have public input so the library will be perceived to be, and be in fact, a **community** library."

> "At last our Needs Assessment is completed. We are pleased with it, it has been well worth while."
>
> "We did it! It was a great experience and we learned a lot. Now, if we can just continue on and progress as a result of doing this task."
>
> "The needs assessment process made us aware that we, as a Board, and the whole community have been giving our library the attention it deserves. It has made us more aware of what we have that we should be doing more of than simply providing for the 'operation' of the library."
>
> "While undergoing the needs assessment process was a monumental undertaking, we feel it will prove very worthwhile over both the short and long term. Orientation for staff, board and volunteers will be easier. Long and short term planning will be related to long term objectives. Operations and policies will be easier to follow, change and document so all parties have a clearer idea of where we are going and what we are working for."

The Alberta Library Board congratulates all the library boards around the province who have worked long and hard at the planning process in order to better provide public library service in Alberta.

Conferences and Workshops

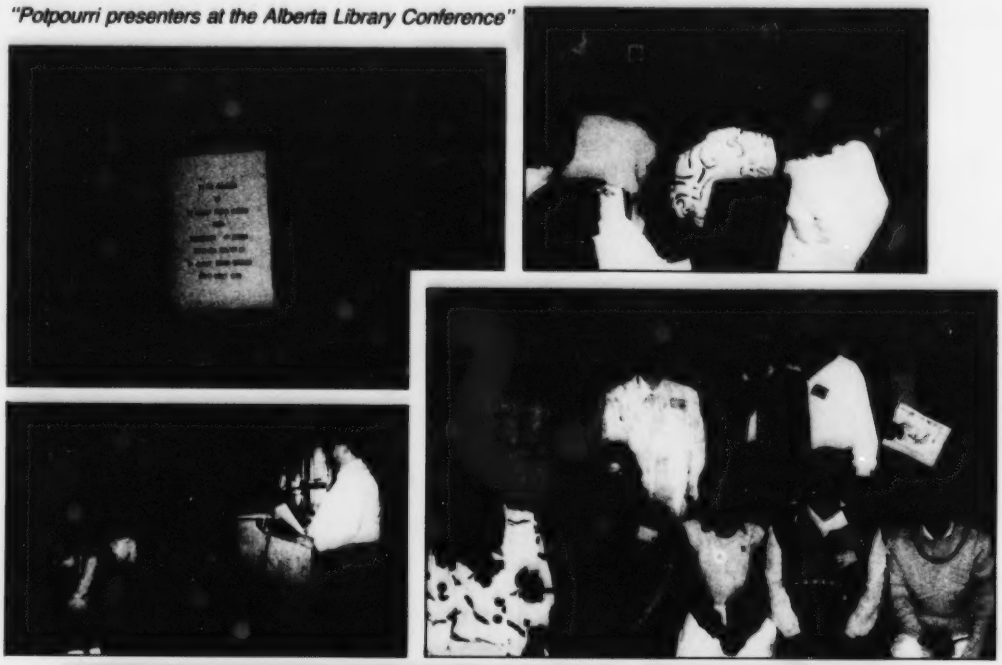
> *"Education is what remains when we have forgotten all that we have been taught."*

The Board began to play a more active role at the Alberta Library Conference three years ago. Continuing this active participation at the Jasper Conference in April 1987, the Board presented "Potpourri '87", a workshop of fifteen round table sessions featuring innovative projects implemented by libraries across the province.

Presentations were made by trustees, library staff, and volunteers representing Penhold, Spruce Grove, Edmonton, St. Albert, Strathcona County, Drumheller, Grande Prairie, Banff, Calgary, and the Marigold Library System. Each of the more than 100 delegates had the opportunity to attend four of the fifteen round table sessions presented during the workshop. At the end of "Potpourri '87", everyone received a kit containing handouts from all the sessions.

This session, presented for the second time in 1987, continues to be popular and likely will be on the 1988 Alberta Library

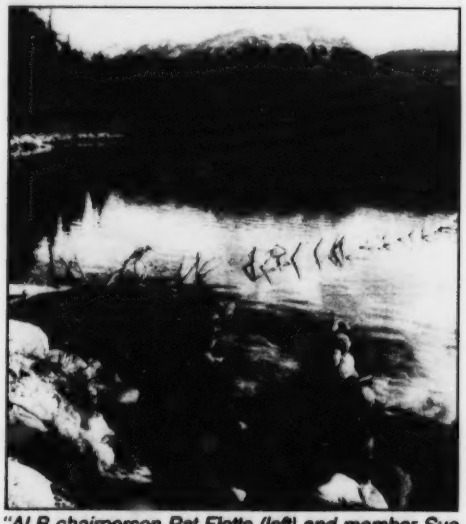
"Potpourri presenters at the Alberta Library Conference"



"Many excellent ideas emerge out of Potpourri"

Conference program. A ripple effect has been recently noted with ideas presented at previous Potpourri programs being seen in action at other Alberta libraries.

Conference attendance by Alberta Library Board members included the American Library Association in San Francisco. The theme of this conference was "Diversity: the Challenge to America's Libraries" and addressed library services to such diverse populations as the deaf and disabled, the illiterate or semi-literate, and, generally, a multi-racial, multi-cultural society. The Board was also represented at the Canadian Library Association Conference in Vancouver which had the theme of "Merchants of Light: Expanding Your Horizons." Many challenges facing the library community were explored in a variety of sessions.



"ALB chairperson Pat Flette (left) and member Sue Dutton, take a few minutes, at the Alberta Library Conference, to enjoy the beautiful scenery of Jasper."

Library Openings

"A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life."

H.W. Beecher.

The Board continued to be on the road to attend library openings throughout the province. These special events provided Board members with an opportunity to meet with and recognize the contribution made by trustees, staff, and volunteers. In the past year, library openings were recognized at Hays, Warburg, Arrowwood, Duchess, Didsbury, Foremost, Holden, Vauxhall, Grande Cache, and Rimbey.

"The Didsbury Public Library Opening: David Jenkins, board member, Mrs. Betty McMullen, Board Chairperson and Barbara Clubb, A/Director of the Library Services Branch."

"Opening of the new Rimbey Municipal Library in October; the only rural library located in a shopping mall."

"Foremost Library opening."

THE ROAD UNWINDS

Members of the Alberta Library Board travelled many miles in 1987/88, talking to people in the diverse parts of Alberta's library community. But this is a road that keeps unwinding, and the Board will keep travelling to wherever Albertans are providing and using public library services. And Albertans certainly do use the libraries - between 1981 and 1986, circulation of library materials in Alberta increased an astounding 119%! That is 21 million items or ten items for every Alberta citizen and a clear indication of the quality and accessibility of library services available in the province.

The Board would like to extend a special thank you to Ms. Barbara Clubb, Acting Director of the Library Services Branch, and Mrs. Brenda Baron, Administrative Supervisor and Recording Secretary for the Board, and to all the Library Services Branch staff for their efforts in supporting and informing the Board members.

Each citizen and every community has a different vision of what a library should be, but the visions share an emphasis on the importance of information and library materials to living today. Nine year old Vivian L. Safrin puts words to that vision in her winning entry to the recent national "Why I Love My Library Card" contest sponsored by the American Library Association.

"Why I Love My Library Card"

Jumping Kangaroos, Prickly Porcupines,
Theodore Roosevelt and Teddy Bears,
Friendly Dinosaurs, Frogs and Princes,
CHARGE IT!

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,
Where the Sidewalk Ends,
Little House on the Prairie,
Tikki Tikki Tembo,
Riddles, Giggles and Magic Tricks.
CHARGE IT!

Rachel Carson, Benjamin Franklin,
Martin Luther King Jr., Louis Braille,
Helen Keller, Albert Einstein,
CHARGE IT!

Revolution, Evolution, Pollution, Man on the moon,
Nuclear bombs, Extinction,
CHARGE IT!

I love my library card because I can
charge forever and my payments are:
learning, laughter, and excitement. So I will
continue to use my card with the magic words:
CHARGE IT!